

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is another example of what is happening as we get further consolidation of media that use the public's airwave. With consolidation we get a monopoly that then can decide what the public can and can not hear. This type consolidation brings fewer voices to any political debate and allows those well connected to have their say at the public's expense of the facts.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.